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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-THIRD SESSION

H. F. No. 3376

02/12/2024 Authored by Greenman and Hansen, R., The bill was referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to game and fish; allowing the use of a digital image as proof of possession
1.3 of game and fish licenses; amending Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section
1.4 97A.405, subdivision 2.

1.5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.6 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 97A.405, subdivision 2, is
1.7 amended to read:

1.8 Subd. 2. Personal possession. (a) A person acting under a license or traveling from an
1.9 area where a licensed activity was performed must have in personal possession:

1.10 (1) the proper paper license, if the license has been issued to and received by the person;

1.11 (2) a driver's license or Minnesota identification card that bears a valid designation of
1.12 the proper lifetime license, as provided under section 171.07, subdivision 19;

1.13 (3) the proper paper license identification number or stamp validation, if the license has
1.14 been sold to the person by electronic means but the actual license has not been issued and
1.15 received; or

1.16 (4) electronic or other evidence satisfactory to the commissioner that the person has the
1.17 proper paperless license.

1.18 (b) If possession of a license or a license identification number is required, a person
1.19 must exhibit, as requested by a conservation officer or peace officer: (1) the proper paper
1.20 license if the license has been issued to and received by the person; (2) a driver's license or
1.21 Minnesota identification card that bears a valid designation of the proper lifetime license,
1.22 as provided under section 171.07, subdivision 19; (3) the proper paper license identification

2.1 number or stamp validation and a valid state driver's license, state identification card, or
2.2 other form of identification provided by the commissioner, if the license has been sold to
2.3 the person by electronic means but the actual license has not been issued and received; or
2.4 (4) electronic or other evidence satisfactory to the commissioner that the person has the
2.5 proper paperless license. A person charged with violating the license possession requirement
2.6 shall not be convicted if the person produces in court or the office of the arresting officer,
2.7 the actual license previously issued to that person, which was valid at the time of arrest, or
2.8 satisfactory proof that at the time of the arrest the person was validly licensed. Upon request
2.9 of a conservation officer or peace officer, a licensee shall write the licensee's name in the
2.10 presence of the officer to determine the identity of the licensee.

2.11 (c) Except as provided in paragraph (a), clauses (2) and (4), if the actual license has been
2.12 issued and received, a receipt for license fees, a copy of a license, or evidence showing the
2.13 issuance of a license, including the license identification number or stamp validation, does
2.14 not entitle a licensee to exercise the rights or privileges conferred by a license.

2.15 (d) A paper license issued electronically and not immediately provided to the licensee
2.16 shall be mailed to the licensee within 30 days of purchase of the license. A pictorial migratory
2.17 waterfowl, pheasant, trout and salmon, or walleye stamp shall be provided to the licensee
2.18 after purchase of a stamp validation only if the licensee pays an additional fee that covers
2.19 the costs of producing and mailing a pictorial stamp. A pictorial turkey stamp may be
2.20 purchased for a fee that covers the costs of producing and mailing the pictorial stamp.
2.21 Notwithstanding section 16A.1283, the commissioner may, by written order published in
2.22 the State Register, establish fees for providing the pictorial stamps. The fees must be set in
2.23 an amount that does not recover significantly more or less than the cost of producing and
2.24 mailing the stamps. The fees are not subject to the rulemaking provisions of chapter 14, and
2.25 section 14.386 does not apply.

2.26 (e) Notwithstanding paragraphs (a), (b), and (c), a person may use a digital image of a
2.27 paper license issued to and received by the person to meet the requirement to possess the
2.28 proper paper license under paragraph (a), clause (1), and may exhibit to a conservation
2.29 officer or peace officer a digital image of a paper license issued to and received by the
2.30 person to meet the requirements of paragraph (b). This paragraph expires March 1, 2026.

2.31 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2024.